

Breaking and Making of Nations Recorded in War Born Stamps

Demand for the Countless Issues Ground Out Since Armistice Day Attains Proportions of Worldwide Craze, Bringing Thousands of New Collectors Into the Field

THE tragedy of breaking empires, the hopes of infant nations, the rise and fall of governments in the convulsion which shook the world, all these are being recorded in the variety of postage stamps being issued weekly, daily, hourly by the countries of Europe. The reconstruction of half the globe is being symbolized in series of paper in almost infinite number and design.

Many New Governments.

As for the stamps themselves, a complete description of post war issues is well nigh impossible, for dealers and catalogue makers have been engaged for months assembling, sorting, verifying, classifying, pricing each and every issue, every design, every perforation, every watermark, every surcharge, every shade; and the task seems ever as great. Upward of forty new nations, new governments, new protectorates, all created since armistice day, are grinding out provisional issues, commemorative issues, peace issues, and all the old nations, old governments, old protectorates, are doing their best to keep the pace. Fortunes are being invested by collectors, old and new, in these countless issues, and fortunes will be made and will be lost before the philatelic market regains its equilibrium.

Among the newborn nations, states, empires, republics which have taken positions in stampdom may be mentioned Poland, Ukraine, Finland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bavaria, German Austria, Württemberg, Hungary, Austria, Russia, Germany, Arad, Latvia, Hedja, Crete, Italian Austria, Tyrol, Cilicia, Esthonia, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Livonia, Lithuania, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Abyssinia, Croatia, Lettonia and Bohemia. In addition a score or more cities, including Fiume, Trieste, Trentino, Warsaw, Libau, Bagdad, Pekin, Tientsin, are clamoring for recognition of their issues, while the host of provisional, revolutionary and insurrectionary governments have not failed during their brief and lurid lives to leave their stamps behind them.

In the wake of the rush for possession of the new stamps has come an enormous boom in popularity and value of the older ones, especially the older United States issues.

Seek Slav Stamps.

Of first importance to stamp collectors, as well as to the world at large, are the stamp issues of the two new state groups which have arisen from the wreck of war—Jugo-Slavia and Czechoslovakia. Jugo-Slavia, the new state of the southern Slavs, is known as the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Croatia proclaimed its independence as well as that of Slavonia and Dalmatia, October 30, 1918, representative of all the southern Slav peoples.

The first postal issues of the Jugo-Slavs embraced quantities of Hungarian stamps captured in occupied towns and overprinted with the mystic initials "S. H. S." These letters stand for Serbia, Hrvatska (the native name of Croatia) and Slavonia. A similar fate befell the later issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina when that country was overrun by its conquerors. Early in 1919 a quaint and original series of stamps made its appearance under the revolutionary regime at Laibach in Carniola. The stamps depict a nude young giant who has just broken his fetters, peace doves, cupids and portraits of national leaders. Following these the regular issue for Croatia-Slavonia appeared, showing a caryatid of victory upholding the monogram "S. H. S." and a Slav sailor waving the Jugo-Slav flag inscribed "S. H. S." Since the armistice the Serbs have issued a temporary series of stamps bearing the profiles of King Peter and Prince Alexander.

The Czechoslovakia Republic, consisting of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia, declared its independence October 18, 1918, under President Masaryk at the capital at Prague, and utilized captured Austrian stamps surcharged "Česko-Slovenský stát," or "Czechoslovakian Republic," as its first postal issue. Later a regular issue was engraved from designs by the Czech artist Mucha, depicting the Bratislava fortress, the seat of the new government. Other issues not yet fully authenticated have done much to confuse a situation already seriously muddled.

One of the most interesting philatelic situations is that created in the wrangle for the possession of Fiume. The first stamps issued there were those of Serbia-Croatia-Slavonia, authorized by the Government at Zagreb (Agram). These were Hungarian stamps surcharged "S. H. S." This issue did not last long, the surcharged stamps being in use from

the morning of November 17 to 4 P. M. of the same day, one hour after the entry of the first Italian troops. Oddly enough it was not the military authorities, but the Italian National Committee at Fiume, which put a stop to their sale.

From November 17 to December 1 Hungarian stamps without surcharge were used in Fiume, but on December 2 the same stamps were issued by the Italians with the surcharge "Fiume." These were current until superseded on February 1, 1919, by a set of so-called autonomous stamps in patriotic designs by the artist Rubinih, all having the word "Fiume" in large letters at the bottom.

As for the stamps of Hungary, there appears to be confusion raised to the nth degree. The Hungarian Peoples Republic was proclaimed November 16, 1918, and the royalist stamps were overprinted "Köztársaság" (Republic). A Bolshevik regime succeeded in March, 1919, and the resulting postal issues presented a grotesque array of Bolsheviks. In addition, specialists have classified Hungarian issues overprinted by the French administration, others overprinted by the Rumanian administration, and still others overprinted by the Serbian administration. Another series, of whose value there seems to be considerable doubt, is that said to have been issued at Temesvar, the chief city of the Banat, in southeastern Hungary.

As might be expected, the stamp issues of the horde of governments arising from the destruction of the Russian empire are many and varied. Issues which must be respected by philatelists, despite their multiplicity, are those of the Don Republic, the Esthonian Republic, the Georgian Republic, the Kuban Republic, the Lithuanian Republic, the Tauride Republic, the Ukraine Republic, the Terek Republic, Lettonia and Batum.

A most unusual historical situation must not be overlooked in the stamp issues of Lettonia, one of the independent Baltic provinces of old Russia. The first provisional series was lithographed on the back of captured German military maps, all bearing the imprint "Kartographische Abteilung d. Königl. Preuss. Landes-Aufnahme. 1917." A second provisional series was lithographed on writing paper, faintly ruled on the back, this paper and that bearing the German maps being the only available supply to be obtained at the time. Later receipts, on ordinary white paper, resulted in a third issue, which in turn was superseded by a series

containing designs symbolical of the agricultural occupations of the people, together with a commemorative service marking the "Deliverance of Riga."

So far Bolshevik postage stamps have proved a false alarm, although two varieties are known to have been prepared by the Russian artist Sarring, who designed the Romanov stamps at the command of Nikitin, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in Kerensky's last Cabinet. These two stamps were issued two months before Kerensky's fall and were only part of a complete series for which designs were drawn, but the other designs were not printed, because the Bolsheviks arrived on the scene and abolished the use of postage stamps altogether.

The Polish Stamps.

Of considerable importance are the new stamp issues of Poland. At the beginning of November, 1918, the Poles in the part of the country occupied by Austria foresaw the dissolution of the Austrian army and took hold, among other things, of the various post offices. The postal traffic stopped only for a few days, and when it was reopened it was in Polish hands.

The first definitive issue by Paderewski's Government included a variety of artistic designs in values of pfennigs, marks, heller and krone. A second issue of the new republic was of new and larger designs with the values in halercz or halercz issued at Cracow in commemoration of the reopening of the Polish Parliament.

Mention should be made of the stamps of the "Polish Corps." This corps, which had developed from the Russian army, was attached to the German army and the Polish general command established a field post with its own stamps; these were Russian stamps and envelopes, together with imprinted stamps of 1908, provided either with the inscription "Pozna" and the Polish eagle or the words "Pol. Korps" and the Polish eagle. All these stamps are rich prizes much sought after by collectors.

The new German stamps, issued since the downfall of the Kaiser, are characterized as freaks by philatelists, but they must take their place among the great variety of post-war issues.

Of first importance to collectors the world over are the provisional issues by Italy for use at the Italian post offices in Pekin and Tientsin, China. The Italian post office at Pekin was established for

the benefit of Austrian prisoners of war interned by the Chinese Government; as these men largely came from Dalmatia and other parts of the former monarchy using the Italian language they, as well as the prisoners of Slav origin, addressed themselves to the Italian legation which looked after their mail.

The high prices asked for these stamps, which were surcharged in new values on current Italian stamps, are justified by the small number issued as well as by the loss of thousands of letters bearing them in the wreck of the mail steamship Chinese on the Yang-tse-Kiang on September 24, 1917. A later issue, surcharged in Italy for use of all Italian post offices in China, superseded the small provisional issue.

One of the most interesting as well as valuable series of postage stamps that the world has ever seen—that of Slesvig's plebiscite—is about to make its appearance. It will be remembered that in accordance with the peace treaty the frontier between Germany and Denmark is to be fixed in accordance with the wishes of the population, a vote being taken in northern Slesvig as a whole and in portions of central Slesvig by com-

munas. During the voting the zone is in charge of an international commission of five members, of whom the Norwegian and Swedish governments choose two.

After the result of the voting has been declared the Danish Government may occupy that territory which voted for Denmark, and Germany will have to renounce sovereign rights therein; all the inhabitants then will acquire Danish nationality with certain exceptions. A series of fourteen stamp designs has been prepared, showing the two lions of the coat of arms of South Jutland and the

inscription "Plebiscit." These stamps will be current only during the vote, and as a result immediately will become rare and exceedingly valuable.

The Bavarian Republic, German-Austria, Transylvania, Baranya and other new and independent governments split off from the German and Austro-Hungarian empires form another group of interesting stamp issuing nations which must be considered by collectors.

The stamp issuing activities of the Italians in Trieste and Trentino also occupy a leading position among matters

philatelic. Trieste is the port and district at the head of the Gulf of Trieste and is part of the Italian Irredenta occupied by the Italians since the Austrian armistice of November 4, 1918. The first stamp issue there was that of an Austrian series surcharged "Regno d'Italia Venezia Giulia"; later issues were those of an Italian series surcharged "Venezia Giulia." In the Trentino two similar issues were forthcoming after the armistice, the first being overprinted "Regno d'Italia Trentino" and the second "Venezia Tridentina." A regular issue for both Trieste and Trentino followed, Italian stamps being surcharged "Centesimi di Corona."

Cilicia, a district in southeast Asia Minor now administered under a French mandate, likewise joined the new stamp legion with a series of Turkish issues overprinted "Cilicie" and Kydonia, a former Turkish sanjak opposite the Greek island of Mytilene, also put forth an occupation issue at Aivalik, the principal town of the sanjak, the series being Turkish issues overprinted "Occupation Greece Cydonia."

Recently the presence of German troops under General von der Goltz in Lettland was the cause of another stamp issue. The regular post offices, of course, were in the hands of the Lett government, but the German troops made use of their own field post with German stamps.

One of the unique issues caused by the war was that put out at Rakvere, or Wesenberg, in Esthonia. It consists of Russian stamped wrappers surcharged "Eesti" and a new value and the word "Rakvere" cut out square and used as adhesives. The known copies are postmarked by another hand stamp "Rakvere" in addition to the marks of German registration labels. Genuine copies of this issue undoubtedly will be among the greatest rarities.

Great confusion still exists as to the authenticity of certain much discussed provisional issues credited to the Austrian Tyrol. Following the hasty retreat of the Austrian troops from the region, the direction of many branches of administration passed into the hands of local Tyrolean organizations and in the general desire to obliterate everything pertaining to the Austrian monarchy and the unseated monarchs a new series of stamps is said to have been hastily issued. On Austrian regular issues and on Austrian field post stamps were surcharged designs depicting the Tyrolean eagle, which continued in existence from December 12, 1918, until withdrawn and superseded January 20, 1919, by the German-Austrian series of Austrian stamps surcharged "Deutschösterreich."

The Germans in Belgium.

A matter of much historical as well as philatelic interest is the issue of Belgian stamps surcharged "Allemagne-Deutschland" for use in that part of Germany occupied by Belgian troops. A new victory design about to be issued by the brave little kingdom bears the portrait of King Albert wearing a war helmet on his head, with the dates 1914-1918. *Le Soir*, the Brussels newspaper, says the stamp is being prepared by a Netherlands establishment because the Belgian stamp factory at Malines was destroyed during the war. The design was furnished and engraved by Jean de Bast, a Belgian artist, who during the war carried on the extremely risky occupation of engraving forged seals for passports and similar documents used in carrying on espionage against the German forces of occupation,



STAMPS PRINTED ON BACK OF CAPTURED GERMAN MILITARY MAPS.

Church School Americanizing the Russian Anarchist

By ROLLIN LYNDE HARTT.

AN anarchist—one of the thousand Russians who attended a recent lecture on American Government at the Church of All Nations in this city—stood up to question the lecturer and said, "I believe you are an honest man. Now tell us: when you read from what we understood you to call the Constitution of the United States, was it really the Constitution of the United States or was it something you had written yourself? I have lived here five years and I am positive that America has no such Constitution as that."

Down in Second avenue, at his office in the Church of All Nations, Dr. John R. Henry put forward this incident as illustrating the Russian anarchists' profound ignorance of America. Read them the Constitution and they suspect that you are romancing. They have no literature about American Government in their own language. Newspapers in Russian tell them that this country is a land of exploitation ruled by the capitalists. When you use the term "Americanization" they wonder what new form of exploitation it represents.

Dr. Percy Stickney Grant, rector of the Church of the Ascension, was lately accused of comparing these Russians to the Pilgrim fathers. His case has been

looked into. It develops that, far from intending comparison, he emphasized a contrast. The storm has subsided, but the air is not yet clear. People still ask what business it is of clergymen to meddle with Bolshevism, and conclude that raids and deportations are the sole remedy. While by no means denying the raids and deportations Dr. Henry sees an additional means of checking Bolshevism, and the Church of All Nations has thus far turned some eighty Russian anarchists into good Americans and good Methodists.

Back in those portentous days when Trotsky edited the *Novy Mir* in New York, and was known as Leon Brauerstein, the future Soviet Minister of War would sometimes stroll down Second avenue of an evening and look in on Dr. Henry's Russian forum, and on the night when the forum crowd were celebrating the Czar's abdication he took particular pains to be present. A thousand Russians—Socialists, anarchists, Jews, Christians—packed the hall. Five hundred more packed the corridors. An overflow, numbering fully 2,000, swarmed outside in Second avenue and shouted themselves hoarse with cries of "Russia has broken her shackles! The Bastille has fallen! Government of the people, for the people, by the people is born at last in Russia!" While the rejoicings were at their

height indoors Trotsky sprang to his feet and shrieked, "We don't want a mere political revolution, we want a social revolution that will spread all over the world. We—"

A great roar of laughter cut him short. For years the Church of All Nations had been a stronghold not only of American but of Russian patriotism. There the Zemstov's agents had recruited skilled mechanics for war work, sending them to Russia in large numbers. There the Russian Peasants Society, largest of the Russian patriotic organizations in America, began its fight for constitutional government in Russia.

Had Trotsky remained in New York a bit longer he would have seen Col. Koeh persuade Russians at the Church of All Nations to enlist in the A. E. F. He might even have looked on while \$20,000 worth of Liberty bonds found purchasers at a single mass meeting of Slavs.

It sounds amazing. Russian Jews abound in Manhattan, but the thousand Russians at the Forum are not Jews. Where do they keep themselves? There is no "Little Russia" in New York. You seldom identify a Russian shop, a Russian restaurant or a Russian church. True, there are Russian newspapers—*Novy Mir*, *Russkoye Slovo* and the rest—but who reads them? Who knows how? Sin-

gularly adaptable, the Slav soon Americanizes himself, outwardly, and you can walk through Allen street or the other Slavic neighborhoods without being aware of rubbing elbows with former political prisoners from Russia and Siberia. New York city has 80,000 Russians—material enough for a Church of All Nations to work with and material curiously amenable to Americanization. Unhappily, it is as amenable, or more so, to Bolshevik influence. Why?

These people have come to us from a land of the knout and the chain. Among them the doctrine most deeply imbedded is anarchism. Not primarily a bomb throwing, bloodthirsty anarchism, however. At bottom it is pacifism carried out to its logical conclusion.

To them the East Side of New York city is America. They witness, at close range the wonders of East Side politics. Easily led, the Slav is as easily discouraged. If anarchism seems rather a large order, with success a long way off and pretty doubtful at that, why not take up with the Radical Socialists or even with the Bolsheviks? According to sundry East Side newspapers—the *Novy Mir*, for example—Bolshevism is fast transforming Russia into a paradise.

Nothing can exceed the rancor with which East Side Reds hate the forum at

the Church of All Nations. It has been so from the first, and that is one secret of its growth. No sooner had it got going than the radicals came pouring in, to make a monkey of the speakers and shout radical doctrine during the discussions. Patriots came there to howl down the radicals. Less impassioned Slavs came for fun. This continued. It is a free for all carnival of furious disagreement, and Theodore Conzevits, who presides, goes home with a banging headache, leaving the wranglers to have it out among themselves on the sidewalks.

Naturally some crazy enough things get said during the discussions indoors. One night a Bolshevik declared: "I know it for a fact that Elihu Root handed Kerensky \$60,000,000 from American capitalists to keep up the lighting." Anti-Bolsheviks roared, but Bolsheviks swallowed the assertion whole, and have since swallowed so many assertions as outlandish that Dr. Henry is now adding to the forum a series of lectures arranged with a view to building up faith in American institutions.

From their centenary fund of \$113,000,000 the Methodists will spend \$200,000 this year in equipping the Church of All Nations for a still larger service to the community, and Dr. Henry speaks of his triumphs as a mere beginning.



RUSSIAN FORUM at the CHURCH of ALL NATIONS. ON the PLATFORM EXTREME RIGHT IS DR. JOHN R. HENRY